

## Descriptions of two new dermestid beetles (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from Syria and Israel

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**Descriptions of two new dermestid beetles (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from Syria and Israel.** - *Dermestes (Dermestinus) loebli* sp. n. from Syria and Israel and *Dermestes (Dermestinus) sardous asiaticus* ssp. n. from Syria are described, illustrated and compared with related taxa.

**Key-words:** Coleoptera - Dermestidae - *Dermestes* - Taxonomy - Syria - Israel.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 is one of the commonly known beetle taxa, because of its synanthropic members which may be important economic pests. The subgenus *Dermestinus* Zhantiev, 1967 includes 33 zoonecrophagous species or subspecies in Mediterranean area. Nevertheless, the knowledge of the group is not yet adequate, as shown in my previous papers (Háva, 1999; Háva & Kalík, 1999). Additional new species and new subspecies from Israel and Syria are described in the present paper.

Following acronyms refer to collections in which the examined material is deposited:

JHAC - Private collection of Jiří Háva, Praha, Czech Republic

MCSN - Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova (R. Poggi), Italy

MHNG - Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève (I. Löbl), Switzerland

### *Dermestes (Dermestinus) loebli* sp. n.

Figs 1, 13

Holotype (male): Syria, Dar'a, Balie, 1.iv.1999, Ziani lgt. (MCSN).

Paratypes (1 male, 1 female): same data as holotype (JHAC, MCSN); (2 females): Syria centr., Palmyra, 34°33'N 38°16'E, 250 m., 22-24.vi.1998, P. Kabátek lgt. (MHNG, JHAC); (1 female): Syria bor., Halabiyyeh, 35°41'N, 39°49'E, 160 m., 17-18.vi.1998, P. Kabátek lgt. (JHAC); (1 male, 1 female): Israel, Galilée, près de Maghar, 25.v.1973, I. Löbl lgt. (MHNG, JHAC).

**Description.** Male. Body black, oval, convex. Body length 6.4-8.1 mm. Body width 2.5-3.1 mm. Cuticle black, pubescence coloured. Head with brown and long pubescent, antennae 11 segmented with antennal club consisting of three segments,

brown and with light yellow setae. Maxillary palpi brown. Pronotum with long brown and intermixed black pubescence. Brown pubescence forming two lateral bands; one central and one basal. Scutellum triangular, with long yellow pubescence. Elytra with marble consisting of brown and black pubescence. Legs brown with light brown pubescence. Ventral part of body covered with brown and white pubescence. Abdominal sternites with exception of the last sternite (Fig. 13) white, each with clearly delimited lateral, triangular, black spot. Sternites III and IV each with a median bunch of erect, yellow setae oriented posteriad. Last sternite black, with two sublateral patterns of white pubescence (Fig. 13). Male genitalia as in (Fig. 1).

Female. Similar to male; abdominal sternites III and IV without a bunch of erected yellow setae oriented posteriad.

*Differential diagnosis.* *Dermestes (Dermestinus) loebli* sp. n. is very similar to *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius intermedius* Kalfk, 1951, *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius iranicus* Háva & Kalfk, 1999, *D. (Dermestinus) kaszabi* Kalfk, 1950 and *D. (Dermestinus) mustelinus* Erichson, 1848. In particular, it differs with them the setal pattern of the pronotum, elytra and abdomen. The main external morphological differences are shown in the table 1.

TABLE I  
External morphological differences of *Dermestes loebli* sp.n. and related species.

	<i>D. intermedius</i> Kalfk	<i>D. kaszabi</i> Kalfk	<i>D. mustelinus</i> Erichson	<i>D. loebli</i> sp. n.
Pubescence of V visible abdominal sternite	Black, with two sublateral patterns of white pubescence (Fig. 14)	Black, with two small patterns of white pubescence at anterior part (Fig. 15)	Black, with two sublateral patterns of white pubescence (Fig. 16)	Black, with two sublateral patterns of white pubescence (Fig. 13)
Male genitalia	Figs 2-4	Figs 5-8	Figs 9-10	Fig. 1

*Distribution.* Syria, Israel.

*Etymology.* Named in honour of my friend Ivan Löbl (MHNG), who was the first to find this species.

*Dermestes (Dermestinus) sardous asiaticus* ssp. n.

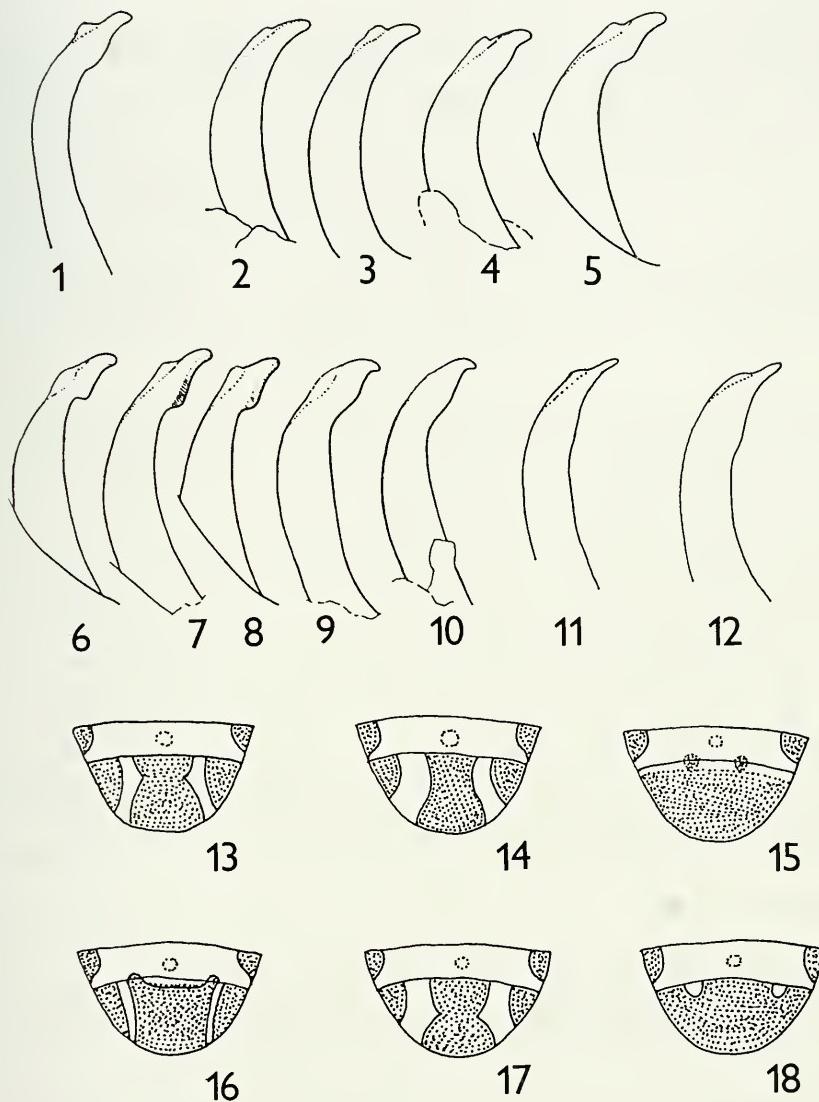
Figs 11, 17

Holotype (male): Syria, Dar'a, Balie, 1.iv.1999, Ziani lgt. (MCSN).

Paratypes (3 males, 4 females): same data as holotype (MCSN, JHAC); (1 female): Syria occ., Al Moshahda, Homs distr., near Qattinah lake, 2.v.2000, P. Kresl lgt. (JHAC).

*Description.* Male. Body black with intermixed yellow, white and black pubescence; body length 6.1-8.2 mm, body width 2.8-3.5 mm. Is distinguished from the nominotypical subspecies by the pubescence of the last exposed abdominal sternite (Fig. 17). The aedeagus is very narrow (Fig. 11). All other morphological characters are as in the nominotypical subspecies.

Female. Similar to the male; abdominal sternites III and IV without a bunch of erected yellow setae oriented posteriad.



FIGS 1-18

Male genitalia: 1 – *D. (Dermestinus) loebli* sp. n.; 2-3 – *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius intermedius* Kalfk., 1951; 4 – *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius iranicus* Háva & Kalfk., 1999; 5-8 – *D. (Dermestinus) kaszabi* Kalfk., 1950; 9-10 – *D. (Dermestinus) mustelinus* Erichson, 1848; 11 – *D. (Dermestinus) sardous asiaticus* ssp. n.; 12 – *D. (Dermestinus) sardous sardous* Küster, 1846 and *D. (Dermestinus) sardous fulvofasciatus* Ganglbauer, 1904. Pubescence on fourth and fifth visible abdominal sternites: 13 – *D. (Dermestinus) loebli* sp. n.; 14 – *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius intermedius* Kalfk., 1951 and *D. (Dermestinus) intermedius iranicus* Háva & Kalfk., 1999; 15 – *D. (Dermestinus) kaszabi* Kalfk., 1950; 16 – *D. (Dermestinus) mustelinus* Erichson, 1848; 17 – *D. (Dermestinus) sardous asiaticus* ssp. n.; 18 – *D. (Dermestinus) sardous sardous* Küster, 1846 and *D. (Dermestinus) sardous fulvofasciatus* Ganglbauer, 1904. (All figures schematic; dotted area = black pubescence).

*Differential diagnosis.* *Dermestes (Dermestinus) sardous asiaticus* ssp. n. is similar to the nominotypical subspecies. Main morphological differences are shown in the table 2.

TABLE 2  
External morphological differences of subspecies of *Dermestes sardous* Küster.

	<i>D. sardous sardous</i> Küster	<i>D. sardous fulvofasciatus</i> Ganglbauer	<i>D. sardous asiaticus</i> ssp. n.
Pubescence on elytra	Intermixed of yellow, white and black pubescence	Intermixed of yellow, white and black pubescence, with one or two sublateral fascia with yellow pubescence	Intermixed of yellow, white and black pubescence
Pubescence on V visible abdominal sternite	Black, with two small patterns of white pubescence at anterior part (Fig. 18)	Black, with two small patterns of white pubescence at anterior part (Fig. 18)	Black, with two sublateral patterns of white pubescence (Fig. 17)
Distribution	S Europe, N Africa	Egypt, Algeria, Morocco	Syria

*Distribution.* Syria.

*Etymology.* The names refers to the distribution of the new subspecies.

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